

RBLS Aberdeen Albyn Branch Commitment to Ex Service Persons Welfare

The primary reason that the Albyn Branch has managed to operate so successfully since the 2nd world war is due to the income from car parks around Aberdeen. Initially there were many car parks operated by ex-servicemen in Aberdeen but in recent times only the centre of Golden Square has been available to us. This car park has been run and maintained by the RBLS Aberdeen Albyn Branch for well over 60 years, before the Hammerman Incorporation of Aberdeen passed ownership to the Aberdeen Council by the Blench Charter of 23rd September 1950.

Throughout this period ex-servicemen have been employed to receive donations which have generated income in excess of £50,000 per year for the last three years.

Financial projections show that without this income the Aberdeen Albyn Branch will have to considerably reduce expenditure, specifically with regard to charitable donations and welfare events that benefit Branch Members and other British Legion Branches around the Aberdeen area. A total loss of income may sound the death knell for our Branch, although we could carry on for a few years with significantly reduced events and donations it is unlikely that the organisation as we know it could exist for the long term.

Just to put into perspective the support the Albyn Branch provides for ex-service persons in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire locations, the following bullet points have been listed:

- **Recipients of Charitable Donations (During the past 5 Years)**
 - Erskine House (provide support with over 20 beds in the Fairview nursing home.
 - Aberdeenshire Area wheelchair fund
 - Local Salvation Army
 - SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association)
 - Aberdeen Cadets, Army, Sea and Air Training Corps
 - Gordon Highlanders Association
 - Aberdeen Parachute Regiment
 - Italy Star Association North of Scotland Branch
 - Lord Provost's Charitable Trust
 - Guide Dogs for the Blind (Aberdeen)
 - 2nd Battalion Highlanders
 - Scottish Horse Regimental Association Club

- **Remembrance and Ceremonial Events Attended**
 - Remembrance day Aberdeen parade and service
 - Kirking of the Council
 - Royal British Legion Scotland Annual Conferences at Perth
 - Support for various trips abroad and in UK by regimental organisations

- **Branch Membership Welfare Events (Annual Programme)**
 - Three Social Evening events (now at the RUA Club Aberdeen)
 - Three - 1 day coach trips for branch members. (Visiting other local Legion Clubs)
 - Three/four Weekend Breaks and Weekday Breaks to hotels (Subsidised events)
 - Home visits for members who are sick or cannot attend events
 - Hospital visits for members by a committee member
 - Bereavement grants

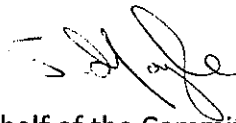
 - **Employment for Ex-Forces Personnel**
 - Car Park Attendants
 - Office Welfare Events Organiser
 - Office Treasurer
 - Office Secretary

 - **Additional Costs to the Branch**
 - Wages
 - Rent and Rates for the office
 - Other office costs including heating and lighting, printing, telephone, postage etc.
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The Committee and members of the Aberdeen Albyn Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland are not interested in donations from the Aberdeen Council; this could not be justified to other charitable organisations.

What we believe is justifiable would be a reasonable level of financial compensation to enable us to continue to operate the Albyn Branch without a significant reduction of the charitable donations and welfare events. We are conscious of the fact that this compensation could not be of an indefinite nature but feel that it could be possible to provide a reasonable share of the income from the Golden Square inner circle car park based on the Branch membership size, whilst the Branch continues to operate.

We feel that this would suitably compensate us for over 60 years of custodianship and maintenance of the centre circle of Golden Square.



On behalf of the Committee of the Albyn RBLs